

U.S. Airways Corporate Headquarters

Art in Private Development Fact Sheet



City of Tempe
Cultural Services
3340 South Rural Road
Tempe, AZ 85282
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www.tempe.gov/arts

Artwork

Duet

Development

U.S. Airways Corporate Headquarters

Address

111 W. Rio Salado Parkway

Artist

Otto Rigan

Completion

1999

Material

Limestone, glass, sandstone, formed concrete and water



Photo: Craig Smith

Description: This artist-designed courtyard contains Otto Rigan's classic monoliths of sandstone and glass, this time featured in pairs. The title *Duet* also alludes to two half circles that provide seating. Landscaping and lighting further enhance the site.

Funding: This project was funded by the individual developer as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.

Artist biography: Although Rigan was trained as a painter, he has pursued many broad-ranging and cross-disciplinary projects throughout his career. While still in college he completed his first large-scale public commission. In his early 20s he apprenticed to a master architectural glass craftsman. In his late 20s he wrote and photographed four books and lectured widely on their subjects. It wasn't until Rigan was in his early 30s that he began to develop the sculpture for which he is most noted. His interest in the temporal medium of glass and how it manipulates light and the permanence and density of stone, merged into a series of sculptural explorations that continue to this day. Rigan splits his time between making studio-based autonomous works and applying his "way of seeing" to public and corporate spaces. Often the larger commissions merge architectural, landscape and other disciplines as an extension of the Artist's palette. He started an Architectural practice in addition to his other studio activities.

Artist statement: *Duet* contains some of the Artist's *Markers* in an Artist-designed Sculpture Courtyard. *Markers* seek to find a balance between the unpredictability of found material, and the exactness of the sawn "marks." These marks imply some sort of oblique language, while the stone unselfconsciously tells its own story. Neither the stone nor the "language" of the marks is meant to overwhelm each other. In these pieces the artist seeks parity, balancing the conscious and unselfconscious components. Usually, a *Marker* is a standing piece in reference to the prehistoric "standing stones" common to the (United Kingdom).